

Juvenile Justice Program



According to OJJDP.gov, on September 30, President Obama proclaimed October 2016 to be National Youth Justice Awareness Month. This month-long observance is dedicated to preventing youth from entering the juvenile and criminal justice systems and encourages communities to participate in activities and programs that help youth fulfill their greatest potential. In his proclamation, the President said Congress must reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) “to increase protections for youth and limit the number of minors held in adult jails and prisons.”

The President encouraged communities to hold youth appropriately accountable, while improving their outcomes through prevention efforts, counseling, substance use disorder treatment, community-based alternatives to confinement, job training programs and screening youth for exposure to trauma.

In an effort to highlight the incredible strengths of our own at-risk youth and educate the community at large, the Juvenile Justice team at Jefferson County Human Services provided several opportunities during the month of October for increasing awareness of this population. The Juvenile Justice staff was busy, not only raising awareness of Juvenile Justice Month, but also raising funds to continue to support activities, groups and incentives for youth, some of which were mentioned in the employee newsletter article in October. For example, Kettle corn was sold within the building every other week throughout the month of October. This was a great success, partly because it was so good, but mostly due to the generous nature of the wonderful staff at Human Services.

We are incredibly proud of our kids who helped create our 2017 calendars. Over the summer, the Juvenile Justice team started collecting artwork created by the Juvenile Justice youth who participated in the ART IDEA group. That artwork, along with additional submissions, was then integrated into our new 2017 calendars, WHICH ARE FOR SALE for just \$10.00. They make great Holiday gifts and honor the work our youth have created.

In addition to these fundraising activities, to raise and sustain awareness, the Juvenile Justice team collaborated to design shirts with a slogan/logo. The Juvenile Justice team collectively invented J2 for our logo. We are inspired by the resilience in our youth that we serve which is why we chose “Resiliency Amid Adversity” as our slogan.

This year marked the third year that the JJ team participated on Morning Magazine at WFAW, our local radio station. Topics discussed were Trauma Informed Care, Motivational Interviewing, our fundraising efforts and foster care for youth of this age.

To close out our fundraising/awareness the Juvenile Justice team hosted the 1st annual chili cook off. It was delicious and competitive, and provided great comradery. There were gold, silver and bronze award recipients, and each received adorable spoon trophies. We hope the winners display them with pride.

Last, but certainly not least, the Juvenile Justice team would like to thank all of you for your participation and donations to make Juvenile Justice Awareness month a success. We hope to make next October bigger and better and expand our efforts to more areas of Jefferson County.

IF YOU CAN HELP A CHILD YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND YEARS REPAIRING AN ADULT J2.